

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-46 (cancelled).

Claim 47 (previously presented): A water disposal system for disposing water generated during power generation by a power generator, comprising:

a water-absorbing member extending from the power generator, for recovering and moving the water by utilizing capillary phenomenon; and

a water-retaining member for temporarily accumulating the water,

wherein the water-absorbing member is provided over an external surface of an electronic device to which the power generator is mounted, as being extended from the external surface, and wherein a surface area of the water-absorbing member is larger than a surface area of the power generator.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The water disposal system according to claim 47, wherein the power generator is a fuel cell comprising:

an anode supplied with a substance substantially composed of hydrogen as an active anode material;

a cathode exposed to air and supplied with oxygen as an active cathode material; and

an electrolyte film disposed between the anode and cathode.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The water disposal system according to claim 48, wherein the cathode has a current collector formed thereon,

an opening through which oxygen is supplied to the cathode is formed in the current collector, and

a water-absorbing member formed on a circumference of the opening.

Claim 50 (previously presented): The water disposal system according to claim 49, wherein the water-absorbing member is formed to surround the circumference of the opening so as to cover the opening and to reach the cathode.

Claim 51 (previously presented): The water disposal system according to claim 47, wherein the water-absorbing member is composed of a material selected from the group consisting of a string-formed material having a void portion formed therein in a longitudinal direction thereof, and a porous material having recessed portions on the surface thereof.

Claim 52 (cancelled).

Claim 53 (previously presented): The water disposal system according to claim 47, wherein the water-absorbing member has a portion selected from the group consisting of an irregular-shaped portion and a projected portion.

Claim 54 (previously presented): The water disposal system according to claim 47, wherein the water-retaining member is provided between the water-absorbing member and the electronic device.

Claim 55 (previously presented): The water disposal system according to claim 47, wherein a water-absorbing layer having at least water absorbency, air permeability and electro-conductivity, is provided between a diffusion layer and a current collector.

Claim 56 (withdrawn): A method of disposing water generated during power generation by a power generator, comprising

recovering and moving the water by utilizing capillary phenomenon, and disposing the water to the external of the power generator including after temporary accumulation.

Claim 57 (withdrawn): The method of disposing water according to claim 56, wherein

the water existed in a diffusion layer is absorbed by a water-absorbing layer having at least water absorbency, air permeability and electro-conductivity, provided between a diffusion layer and a current collector, and the water absorbed by the water-absorbing layer is further absorbed by a water-absorbing member partially brought into contact with the water-absorbing layer.

Claim 58 (previously presented): A power generation apparatus for generating electric power by supplying a fuel gas and an oxidizer gas wherein the fuel gas and the oxidizer gas can electrochemically react with each other to generate electric power, comprising:

a water-absorbing member extending from the power generator such that the water can be recovered and moved by utilizing capillary phenomenon,

wherein the water-absorbing member is provided over an external surface of an electronic device to which the power generator is mounted, as being extended from the external surface, and wherein a surface area of the water-absorbing member is larger than a surface area of the power generator.

Claim 59 (previously presented): The power generation apparatus according to claim 58, further comprising a water-retaining member for temporarily accumulating the water.

Claim 60 (previously presented): The power generation apparatus according to claim 58, further comprising a water-absorbing layer having at least water absorbency, air permeability and electro-conductivity, provided between a diffusion layer and a current collector.

Claim 61 (withdrawn): A water disposal system for disposing water generated during power generation by a power generator, comprising:

a separator having, formed thereon, a fuel supply groove for supplying a fuel gas to a first electrode and an oxidizer supply groove for supplying an oxidizer to a second electrode, and for holding the power generator; and

water disposal means for disposing the water, wherein the water disposal means is provided at least on a midway portion of the oxidizer supply groove.

Claim 62 (withdrawn): The water disposal system according to claim 61, wherein the water disposal means includes a water-absorbing member for absorbing the water.

Claim 63 (withdrawn): The water disposal system according to claim 62, wherein the water disposal means is provided along at least a partial region of a sidewall of the oxidizer supply groove.

Claim 64 (withdrawn): The water disposal system according to claim 63, wherein the water-absorbing member is provided so as to cover at least a part of the surface having the oxidizer supply groove formed therein.

Claim 65 (withdrawn): The water disposal system according to claim 64, wherein the separator has a heat sink portion formed thereon for dissipating heat of the power generator; and

the water-absorbing member provided so as to cover at least a part of the surface having the oxidizer supply groove formed therein is formed so as to be a predetermined shape extended from the surface having the heat sink portion formed therein, and so that the region of the predetermined shape covers at least a part of the oxidizer supply groove.

Claim 66 (withdrawn): The water disposal system according to claim 62, wherein the water-absorbing member includes a member absorbing the water by utilizing capillary phenomenon.

Claim 67 (withdrawn): The water disposal system according to claim 66, wherein the water-absorbing member is an aggregate of string-formed fiber having a void portion formed therein in the longitudinal direction.

Claim 68 (withdrawn): The water disposal system according to claim 66, wherein the water-absorbing member comprises a three-layered structure in which a two-layered structure including a first material having a water-absorbing/releasing property and a second material having a water absorbency bonded with each other is bonded with a predetermined tape material on the lower side of the second material.

Claim 69 (withdrawn): The water disposal system according to claim 68, wherein the second material includes a material absorbing the water by utilizing capillary phenomenon.

Claim 70 (withdrawn): The water disposal system according to claim 61, wherein the water disposal means includes the oxidizer supply groove having a roughened surface.

Claim 71 (withdrawn): The water disposal system according to claim 61, wherein the water disposal means includes the oxidizer supply groove having a high water-repellent region formed therein.

Claim 72 (withdrawn): The water disposal system according to claim 61, wherein the water disposal means includes the oxidizer supply groove having a high hydrophilic region formed therein.

Claim 73 (withdrawn): The water disposal system according to claim 61, wherein the fuel gas includes a hydrogen gas; and the oxidizer gas includes air including oxygen.

Claim 74 (withdrawn): The water disposal system according to claim 61, wherein the power generator has a predetermined electrolyte film provided between the first electrode and the second electrode.

Claim 75 (withdrawn): The water disposal system according to claim 61, further comprising:

a water-absorbing layer having at least water absorbency, air permeability and electro-conductivity, provided between a diffusion layer and the separator.

Claim 76 (withdrawn): A method of disposing water generated during power generation by a power generator, comprising:

generating power by supplying a fuel gas to a first electrode through a fuel supply groove formed on a separator which holds the power generator, where an oxidizer gas is supplied to a second electrode through an oxidizer supply groove formed on the separator thereby allowing the power generator to generate electric power; and

disposing the water using water disposal means provided on a midway region of the oxidizer supply groove.

Claim 77 (withdrawn): The method of disposing water according to claim 76, wherein

the water existed in the diffusion layer is absorbed by a water-absorbing layer having at least water absorbency, air permeability and electro-conductivity, provided between the diffusion layer and the separator during water disposal; and the water absorbed by the water-absorbing layer is further absorbed by a water-absorbing member partially brought into contact with the water-absorbing layer.

Claim 78 (currently amended): A power generation apparatus for generating electric power by supplying a fuel gas and an oxidizer gas such that the fuel gas and the oxidizer gas can electrochemically react with each other, comprising:

a power generator having a predetermined electrolyte film provided between a first electrode and a second electrode;

a separator having, formed thereon, a fuel supply groove for supplying the fuel gas to the first electrode and an oxidizer supply groove for supplying the oxidizer gas to the second electrode, and for holding the power generator; and

a water-absorbing member for absorbing water generated during power generation by the power generator, provided at least on a midway portion of the oxidizer supply groove, the water-absorbing member having strip-formed regions extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to a direction of the oxidizer supply groove,

wherein the water-absorbing member comprises a three-layered structure in which a two-layered structure, including a first material having a water-absorbing/releasing property and a second material having a water absorbing property bonded with each other, is further bonded with a predetermined tape material on the lower side of the second material, the tape material having a rigidity that reduces any sagging of the strip-formed regions of the water-absorbing member that extend over the oxidizer supply grooves, and

wherein the second material includes a material absorbing the water by utilizing capillary phenomenon.

Claim 79 (cancelled).

Claim 80 (previously presented): The power generation apparatus according to claim 78, wherein the water-absorbing member is further provided along at least a partial region of a sidewall of the oxidizer supply groove.

Claim 81 (original): The power generation apparatus according to claim 80, wherein the water-absorbing member is provided so as to cover at least a part of the surface having the oxidizer supply groove formed therein.

Claim 82 (previously presented): The power generation apparatus according to claim 81, wherein

the separator includes a radiating fin for dissipating heat of the power generator; and
the water-absorbing member includes a region extended from a surface of the radiating fin of the separator and another region that covers at least a part of the oxidizer supply groove.

Claim 83 (cancelled).

Claim 84 (currently amended): The power generation apparatus according to claim 8378, wherein the water-absorbing member is an aggregate of string-formed fiber having a void portion formed therein in a longitudinal direction.

Claims 85-86 (cancelled).

Claim 87 (previously presented): The power generation apparatus according to claim 78, wherein the water-absorbing member includes the oxidizer supply groove having a roughened surface.

Claim 88 (previously presented): The power generation apparatus according to claim 78, wherein the water-absorbing member includes the oxidizer supply groove having a high water-repellent region formed therein.

Claim 89 (previously presented): The power generation apparatus according to claim 78, wherein the water-absorbing member includes the oxidizer supply groove having a high hydrophilic region formed therein.

Claim 90 (original): The power generation apparatus according to claim 78, wherein
the fuel gas includes a hydrogen gas; and
the oxidizer gas includes air including oxygen.

Claim 91 (previously presented): The power generation apparatus according to claim 78, further comprising a power generation section having a stacked structure in which a plurality of elements holding the power generator by the separator is stacked.

Claim 92 (previously presented): The power generation apparatus according to claim 78, further comprising a water-absorbing layer having at least water absorbency, air permeability and electro-conductivity, provided between a diffusion layer and the separator.